

judges and, as I have indicated, the 20th confirmation, that of Judge Prado is stalled only because Republicans have refused to proceed to his consideration.

President Bush is poised to appoint at least one-quarter of Federal appellate courts in just one term, due to the large number of circuit court vacancies he inherited from President Clinton which were the result of widespread Republican obstruction.

The solution to the current logjam over circuit court judges is not to move them through more quickly with less scrutiny. The solution is for this President to consult with Senators from both parties in finding mainstream, consensus nominees, rather than this parade of activists and extremists that we have witnessed over these past few months. This President wants a clean slate on judicial nominees, but he refuses to do any of the work necessary to clean that slate. Instead of being a uniter in his judicial choices, he has divided this Senate and the American people by deferring to the far right wing of his party in the only lifetimes appointments in our entire government.

The Senate Judiciary Committee has been ridiculed, and I am sad to say, rightly so, for becoming a rubberstamp, an assembly line for these important nominations to the second highest courts in our Federal Government. The solution is genuine consultation and accommodation rather than this race to pack the courts and tip the balance with nominees who have shown a lack of respect for individual rights.

I am pleased to say, however, that not all of his nominees have been extremists. Particularly for the district court nominees when there has been bipartisan consultation, some of the judicial nominees have been conservative but within the mainstream.

Since the Republican majority will not allow the Senate to consider Judge Prado, let me turn briefly to the nominees before the Senate. Mr. Drell has been a lawyer's lawyer, rather than a political or judicial activist as so many of President Bush's circuit nominees are. Dr. Drell has been a member and a leader of numerous State and Local bar associations. He served on the State Committee or Post-Conviction Representation for 5 years and assisted the State bar with attorney disciplinary matters. Dr. Drell has been active in the Family Mediation Council of Louisiana, where he served as a board member from 1986 to 1992.

He also served as board member of the Rapides Parish Indigent Defender Board from 1987 to 1994. He served on the Louisiana Task Force on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts.

Mr. Drell has also devoted a considerable amount of time to helping individuals suffering with AIDS on a pro bono basis. He is directly involved as volunteer counsel for Central Louisiana AIDS Support Services and AIDSLaw

of Louisiana, Inc. These two organizations provide services to persons with AIDS and AIDS-related complex. He has also devoted time to the Delta Region AIDS Education and Training Center. In 1997, he received the Pro Bono Publico Award in 1997 from AIDSLaw of Louisiana.

Mr. Drell has a record of accomplishment and compassion as a lawyer of which we can all be proud. He has the full support of both of his home-State Senators. His record has generated no controversy or criticism. If only, our circuit court nominees had records such as his. This nomination is a good example of the kind of candidate who engenders bipartisan support.

I congratulate Mr. Drell, his family and the Senators from Louisiana on his nomination and confirmation.

The other nominee confirmed today is Richard Bennett of Maryland. There is no doubt that Mr. Bennett is a conservative and a Republican, yet he has the support of his home-State Senators and the support of Senate Democrats.

In 1991, Mr. Bennett was chosen by President George H.W. Bush to be the United States Attorney for the District of Maryland and the Senate confirmed him without dissent. He has also run for State office as a Republican. He has litigated more than 100 cases, civil and criminal, most of which were in the Federal court to which he is nominated.

He has received an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell, been selected to The Best Lawyers in America, and also received a meritorious service medal for his work in the military as a staff judge advocate.

Mr. Bennett served as special counsel to the Government Reform and Oversight Committee in 1997 and 1998 with Republican U.S. Representative Dan Burton, who was investigating campaign contributions during the 1996 election. He heads the Miles & Stockbridge Foundation, a charitable foundation.

I congratulate Mr. Bennett and his family on his confirmation.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U CONN HUSKIES NCAA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. DODD. Madam President, with a sense of parochial pride—although I note the Presiding Officer is from my region of the country, and I presume she may enjoy a sense of regional pride as well—I rise to address the victory last evening of the University of Connecticut women's basketball team in the national championship game. I don't want to take a long time today,

but I send my congratulations to the team, the fans, and Coach Geno Auriemma, who is a wonderful friend of mine, his family, his remarkable coaching staff, and the tremendous team, led by Diana Taurasi, who is a junior, along with other underclassmen, who did what no one predicted they would be able to do following last year's national championship victory, and that is to follow on with a record of only one loss this season and to beat a great Tennessee team.

I note the Senator from Tennessee is in the Chamber, but I want my colleagues to know there are a couple of lobsters that are today enjoying life somewhere along the bottom of Long Island Sound because they did not end up on the dinner plate of the majority leader. Last evening at a gathering of friends, I wagered two New England lobsters versus some barbecue from Tennessee. So two lobsters on Long Island Sound are enjoying their freedom tonight; they are obviously pleased as well that the University of Connecticut team did as well as it did.

Congratulations to our State and their fans and the wonderful team. A resolution will be adopted later this evening commending this fine team and the staff of the University of Connecticut.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. DODD. Madam President, we lost a young man from Connecticut in the Iraq conflict a few days ago. I want to take a few minutes to pay tribute to Marine SSGT Phillip Jordan of Enfield, CT, who was killed in action while on a combat mission in Iraq.

All Americans have been closely following our troops in Iraq since the war began 2 weeks ago. Every day we hear lots of facts and figures about the war, the number of sorties in the air, the number of tanks in the field, and the locations of various divisions throughout Iraq. We must never forget that behind those statistics are people. These people are our constituents, young men and women in uniform from all across this great land of ours, some who are not even citizens of this country but who have green cards and want to demonstrate their commitment to America by serving in the Armed Forces and commit themselves to do a job in the Persian Gulf because they have been asked to by the President.

We must never forget that each and every one of the more than 225,000 brave service men and women fighting in Iraq have family and friends at home to fight for our country overseas. Each of these heroes is making a tremendous contribution, a personal sacrifice, so all of us can be more secure in the United States.

Inevitably, in a conflict such as this, there are those who will make the ultimate sacrifice, some who will never return to their family and friends and communities. I would like to share the story of one of those fine Americans for a few moments this evening.

The individual I want to talk about is SSGT Phillip Jordan who was 42 years of age. He lived in Enfield with his wife Amanda and their 6-year-old son Tyler. His devotion to his country caused him to enlist in the Marines some 15 years ago as a private. Sergeant Jordan quickly advanced in the ranks to become a gunnery sergeant.

In 1991, he served in his first combat mission as a platoon leader in Operation Desert Storm, the first Persian Gulf war. After that conflict, Sergeant Jordan was based at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina before becoming a drill sergeant at Parris Island, SC. For 3 years he taught countless new recruits how to become U.S. marines. Few were better suited for the task—friends, family and his marine colleagues referred to Sergeant Jordan as a “Marine’s Marine” for his can-do professional attitude. Just before he was shipped out in January to serve in the second Persian Gulf war, Sergeant Jordan was asked how he felt about once again being called to serve in combat. His response was: “This is what I do. That’s my job.”

He did that job with unflinching valor. Phillip Jordan was much more than just a fine marine. He was an incredibly fine, loving husband and remarkable father. Amanda Jordan described her husband as a caring and loving man who would go out of his way to do a favor for anyone at all. Each and every Sunday when he was home, he would make his family a homemade breakfast, right down to the flowers and fresh-squeezed orange juice. While stationed overseas, letters home always included two parts, one that began “Dear Amanda” and the other began “Dear Tyler” so that Tyler would have a letter of his own. Tyler certainly read those letters. He says he wants to grow up to be a marine some day, just like his father. There would be, perhaps, no more fitting tribute to a man who showed such tremendous dedication and devotion to his family and his Nation.

Phillip Jordan’s friends liked to call him “Gump,” after the movie *Forrest Gump*, for his eternal optimism. Tragically, in times of war, such optimism is not always rewarded. We, as a Nation, can be assured a victory in this conflict and any others which may challenge us down the line, because we know our fighting forces are made up of men and women who share Phillip Jordan’s sense of commitment and strength of character. We must always be mindful of the price they and their loved ones have paid for our freedom and our security, especially those like Phillip Jordan who paid the highest price of all.

Phillip Jordan was not the first casualty of this war and regrettably he will not be the last. It is important for all of us at this moment in time to reach out to the many families who have an empty chair at their dinner table because a father or mother, brother, sister, son, or daughter has

been called to serve their Nation in a distant land. These families need our support more now than ever.

Young Tyler Jordan was asked the other day about his dad. He said he was confident his father was the best marine in Heaven.

On behalf of the Senate, I thank Phillip Jordan for his service to America, and extend the deepest sympathies, not only of my family but also of all of the Senate, to express our condolences to Amanda and Tyler Jordan and to that family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred September 28, 2001 in New York, NY. A Yemeni man was badly beaten in the Bronx while working at his newsstand. Three local men allegedly yelled, “You Arabs get out of my neighborhood—we hate Arabs! This is war!” before dragging him outside and hitting him in the head with a bottle.

I believe that Government’s first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE 88TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today people around the world are pausing to remember and honor the victims of the Armenian genocide, which began 88 years ago in what is now Turkey. Be-

tween 1915 and 1923, one-and-a-half million Armenians—roughly 60 percent of the total Armenian population—were systematically murdered at the hands of agents of the Ottoman Empire, and hundreds of thousands more were forced to leave their homes. At that time, the word “genocide” had not yet entered our vocabulary. Now, 88 years later, this brutal episode of violence against the Armenian people is considered to have been the first, but unfortunately not the last, genocide of the 20th century.

Two decades later, in 1939, as Adolph Hitler, confident that history would exonerate him, prepared to send his armies into Poland with instructions to slaughter people indiscriminately and without mercy, he rhetorically asked his advisers: “Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?” That is precisely why I speak today, and every year on this date, to honor the Armenian people who lost their lives nearly a century ago and to remind the American people that the capacity for violence and hate is still prevalent in our world today.

Just in the last decade, we have seen systematic efforts to extinguish people because of their ethnicity in Bosnia, Rwanda, and Kosovo. Last year the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe noted a “sharp escalation” of anti-Semitic violence in Europe. Apparently, even lessons as searing and tragic as those of the Holocaust can be forgotten if we do not remain vigilant in our efforts to remember them.

Last year, as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, I had the opportunity to visit the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, which is setting groundbreaking legal precedents with regard to the treatment of genocide. Through such tribunals, the international community should send a powerful message to would-be mass-murderers that such horrific acts will not go unpunished. Since I became a member of the U.S. Senate, I have striven to make protection of basic human rights, and accountability for such atrocities, cornerstones of U.S. foreign policy, and I will continue to do so as long as I am here.

Today, we remember the men, women and children who perished in the Armenian genocide, because to forget them, or any of the countless millions who have been murdered because of their ethnicity over the past century, would be to invite such tragic episodes to be repeated.

PROTECTING CHILDREN AGAINST CRIME ACT OF 2003

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, as you know, April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and this week is National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. Furthermore, just last week, I joined with my friends and colleagues, Senators LINCOLN and SHELBY, in announcing our creation of a new, bipartisan Senate